

ART. XIV.—*Operative Surgery Illustrated: containing more than nineteen hundred Engravings; including two hundred Original and fifty Colored Drawings, with Explanatory Text.* By R. U. PIPER, M.D. Also, a Chapter upon the Use of Ether in Surgery, from the *Transactions of the American Medical Association*, written at the request of a Surgical Committee of that body, by HENRY J. BIGELOW, M.D., Professor of Surgery in the Medical School of Harvard University. Boston: Ticknor, Reed, & Fields, 1852: 8vo. pp. 384.

PUBLICATIONS upon operative surgery have been very abundant of late, in every language which boasts of possessing a medical literature. Some have been limited to certain specialities, others have been general in their application. In this country alone, the number of treatises on general operative surgery, published within an inconsiderable lapse of years, is not small. We can enumerate, as having come within the limits of our own observation, Mott's edition of Velpau's valuable work; Pancoast's Operative Surgery; Malgaigne's excellent book, translated by Brittan, and reprinted in this city; Dr. Smith's Exposition of American Operative Surgery, just issued; and the translation of the volume of Bernard & Huette, now in process of publication in New York. Besides these, there are several valuable treatises on the *Practice of Surgery*, including the operative branch of the science, which have been reprinted from foreign originals—as Liston's, Fergusson's, Miller's, Druitt's, Skey's, Pirrie's, Bransby Cooper's, &c. &c., and others emanating from American authors, e. g. Hastings's *Surgery*.

The appearance, therefore, of another book upon this subject, is a matter for gratulation or otherwise, according to its intrinsic and peculiar merits; for, under the circumstances, it cannot certainly be supposed to be *needed*. In this light, we propose to examine Dr. Piper's book.

The text consists of explanations of, or comments upon, the plates; sometimes a few words suffice to explain the latter; sometimes, as in the description of important operations, several pages are thus occupied. Generally, the author uses his own language; occasionally, the text is marked as a quotation.

As is usual in works of this kind, many of the plates are devoted to representations of the various instruments used in surgical operations, and the manner in which they are employed or applied. It would be entirely unnecessary, and perhaps impossible, to figure and describe *all* the instruments and implements which have been introduced into the armamentarium of surgery; and Dr. Piper does not attempt to do this. His selections have been made from the most approved French, English, and American patterns, and are, as a general rule, judicious.

The *ninth* plate, and the accompanying explanatory remarks, refer to the various kinds of suture, to the application of adhesive strips, and to "Mr. Fergusson's knot for strangulating tumours with broad bases." Plates *tenth* and *eleventh* show the veins and arteries of the different regions in which phlebotomy and arteriotomy are most commonly practised, and the mode of performing these operations.

The succeeding plates, to the *seventeenth* inclusive, exhibit the main arteries of the different regions, at the points ordinarily selected for the ligature of these vessels. Some of these drawings, though small, are sufficiently well executed to be of assistance to the operator; others, again, exhibit so little of the relational anatomy of the bloodvessels as to be of no use whatever.

Plates *eighteen* and *twenty-one* represent the ligaments of the joints. The views of the male and female axilla, the surgical dissection of the axillary and brachial regions, and that of the arm and forearm, which are given in plates *nineteen* and *twenty*, seem somewhat out of their proper place; they would naturally appear in connection with others which relate particularly to the blood-vessels; but as now located, they inflict a violent separation upon the two plates first enumerated, which should be studied together. The pictures here introduced of the axillary regions are decidedly the best in the book, especially the

first of the twentieth plate. They are evidently copied from Maclise; yet Dr. Piper fails to acknowledge their parentage, though he has done this with reference to some other drawings taken from the source just named.

The plates intervening between the *twenty-first* and the *sixty-third* are chiefly illustrative of the various *amputations* and *resections*. Many of these operations are described at length; others are merely indicated by the names of their suggestors. Interspersed among them are drawings of *tumours*, of *caries* and *necrosis* of bone, of violent *injuries* to the limbs, &c., for which amputation was performed in individual cases; and there are also a few delineations of *trephining* and other operations upon the cranium and the face.

The operations figured in the succeeding plates, as far as number 95, are numerous and varied, but are not arranged in any very convenient or definite order—those of the same kind and for the same affection being often scattered about as if accidentally. Among them may be mentioned operations for the removal of the upper and lower jaw, the clavicle, the breast, the parotid gland, and tumours of various regions; operations upon the larynx, trachea, and oesophagus; for harelip, and fissures of the palate; for club-foot, and other distortions; rhinoplastic operations; paracentesis of the chest, abdomen, and scrotum.

Next to these, wounds of the abdomen, with and without concomitant injury to the intestines, are depicted, together with many of the plans of treatment recommended therfor. (Plates 95 and 96.)

The varieties of hernia are exhibited in the following eight plates (97 to 104 inclusive), with the accident which sometimes follows this affection, artificial anus. The drawings are generally well executed, and the explanatory remarks are unusually full, as compared with those appended to the representations of some other important surgical maladies. But neither in the drawings, nor in the descriptions of the operations, and other mechanical modes of treating hernia, do we find anything new, or anything which may not be more profitably sought for in most of the ordinary treatises upon the practice of surgery.

The succeeding seven plates exhibit operations upon the anus and rectum, and the external genito-urinary organs of the male, the instruments employed, and some of the diseases affecting these parts.

Calculus—the operations performed for its removal from the bladder and urethra, and the instruments by which these are accomplished—constitutes the subject of the plates from No. 117 to 130 inclusive, with the exception of a few drawings which have been carelessly thrown from their proper position; e. g. an illustration of M. Reybaud's instrument for removing pus from the *pleural cavity*, and of a canula for the *rectum*.

*Dislocations and fractures* are next exemplified in the plates from No. 131 to 160 inclusive. The figures are taken chiefly from the works of Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Liston, Mr. Fergusson, and Mr. Bruitt.

Plates 161 and 162 contain illustrations of numerous *bandages*.

Diseases of and operations upon the *eye* and its appendages are exhibited in the ten plates next succeeding, together with a great variety of instruments for their treatment.

Plates 173, 4, 5, 6, 7, represent additional varieties of club-foot, and other congenital and acquired distortions, with some of the mechanical contrivances employed to overcome them. Here again we have an instance of the want of arrangement, so far at least as we can judge, which frequently shows itself in this volume; for, in plates 65, 6, 7, and 8 are drawings of similar deformities. The 178th plate exhibits illustrations of vesico-vaginal and recto-vaginal fistula, and of lithotomy in the female; and the question very naturally presents itself, would it not have been better to group these with the similar operations practised upon the male, which are represented in plates 105–108?

The 179th plate is devoted to representations of instruments used for cupping and scarifying, for cauterizing, and of different kinds of moxa.

The implements employed in the extraction of teeth are shown in the 180th plate.

On the 181st and 182d plates are portrayed an example of *rupia*, various forms of *aneurism* in different situations, effects of wounds upon arteries, a

case of carbuncle, one of fungus haematoxides, and an abscess of the oesophagus communicating with the aorta.

The subject of the next plate is the celebrated case reported in this journal, for July, 1850, by Dr. Bigelow, of Boston, in which an iron bar was forced through a man's cranium without fatal consequences.

The 184th exhibits a case of necrosis of the humeral bone, of excision of the lower jaw, of paronychia, and fragments of necrosed bone.

The 185th exemplifies the operation of ligatures applied for popliteal aneurism; a case of the same affection cured by the application of ice; and the "articulation of the ankle bones, with reference to the amputation through the tarsometatarsal articulation."

The 186th and last plate exhibits the efficacy of adhesive strips as a means of extension in fracture of the femur; "and a case of a patient of the author whose finger was torn off by machinery." It will be observed that the subjects of the last six plates have all been previously depicted, and their value has been in some measure diminished by not being introduced in proper connection.

We have thus presented our readers with a sort of *Table of Contents* of this volume, in order that they may see the amount and the arrangement of the readable and pictorial matter therein contained.

As to the real value of Dr. Piper's book, its capability of supplying a want in one's library, our readers may judge from the sketch we have presented. The author has undoubtedly laboured assiduously, and, we may add, successfully, to accumulate a great variety and number of drawings to illustrate most of the diseases and injuries which surgeons are called upon to treat; and he has accompanied the figures with verbal descriptions of different methods of performing the more important operations. But we really cannot perceive that the book possesses any advantage over the standard illustrated treatises on the Practice of Surgery which are now generally accessible to the profession and to students, and, as a reliable authority, it seems to us to be inferior to most of them. The text contains nothing which may not be better obtained from the sources just referred to; the drawings are generally copied from these (very many of them being thus appropriated without the slightest acknowledgment on the part of the author), and are certainly not better, or more expressive, than the wood-cuts, with which several of the more recent of them are illustrated; and the want of system in the general arrangement of the materials will, we should suppose, render it a very inconvenient book of reference.

F. W. S.

ART. XV.—Second Report of the General Board of Health on Quarantine. Yellow Fever. Presented to both Houses of Parliament, by command of Her Majesty. London, 1852: 8vo. pp. 414.

Appendix (C) to the Report of the General Board of Health on the Epidemic Cholera of 1848 and 1849. Abstract of Report, by JAMES WINNE, M. D., on Epidemic Cholera, as it prevailed in the United States in 1849 and 1850. Presented to both Houses of Parliament, by command of Her Majesty. London, 1852: 8vo. pp. 93.

Further Observations on that portion of the Second Report on Quarantine by the General Board of Health, which relates to the Yellow Fever Epidemic on Board Her Majesty's Ship *Eclair*, and at Boa Vista in the Cape De Verde Islands. By J. O. McWILLIAM, M. D., F. R. S., R. N., Medical Inspector of Her Majesty's Customs. London, 1852: 12mo. pp. 40.

The report of the General Board of Health of Great Britain on the subject of Quarantine, especially in reference to Yellow Fever, is a document of the deepest interest to the physicians of our own country, in many parts of which the disease continues to occur, if not as an annual, at least as a not infrequent epidemic; while the commercial intercourse between our principal ports